

CITY-COUNTY COMMON

County-City Building • 555 S. 10th Street • Lincoln, NE 68508

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SPECIAL COMMON MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 17, 2005 - 10:45 a.m.

County/City Building - Room 113

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Jon Camp, Jonathan Cook, Robin Eschliman, Dan Marvin, Annette McRoy, Patte Newman, Ken Svoboda; *COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:* None
MAYOR SENG: In Attendance

COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Bernie Heier, Larry Hudkins (late), Deb Schorr, Bob Workman; *COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:* Bernie Heier

1. MINUTES - None Scheduled for Approval

THIS MEETING WAS SCHEDULED TO SERVE AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INFORMATION EXCHANGES BETWEEN SENATOR CHUCK HAGEL AND THE ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF LINCOLN AND LANCASTER COUNTY

Though scheduled as a Special Common meeting, Mayor Seng sat in as meeting moderator in the place of Common Chair, Patte Newman. Mayor Seng introduced Senator Hagel to the Common Members. Senator Hagel explained that he was in Nebraska to meet with the elected officials at the local level of government because they are the front line - the first responders to the concerns of the citizens. He noted that in Washington, often the elected officials are insulated from the citizenry's needs. Meeting with local officials gives him the opportunity to understand the needs of Nebraska's citizens first-hand and to learn the real concerns of Nebraska communities.

Discussion covered areas of concern from meth use (being the major drug concern of Nebraska communities, along with the related law enforcement and funding concerns to handle the increased drug problems) to the federal government's energy policies, including concerns regarding ethanol and nuclear energy as well as the environmental impacts of oil drilling in America's wilderness areas. Also brought forward as issues of concern were the Social Security and Medicare programs; trade policies, including the Cuba policy and how that would impact the Nebraska economy, and how the Federal trade policies effect the national deficit and energy crises.

Regarding local concerns on transportation and highway issues, Senator Hagel indicated that he would prefer these issue be handled on the local level in order to prevent too much Federal involvement in local governing decisions.

During further discussion, Senator Hagel stated that he felt Homeland Security must be a balanced effort that would adequately protect the citizens without compromising the civil liberties of our nation. When the issue of the 2008 election was brought forward, Senator Hagel deftly refused any commitment as to "intention" - until a proper time.

ADJOURNMENT - Meeting Adjourned by Unanimous Consensus at approximately 11:40 a.m.

Submitted by
Joan V. Ray, Council Secretary
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